

July 2007



# MAG-41 NEWS



## America's MAG



## welcomes Colonel & Mrs. Graham



### CO's Corner



Dear MAG-41 Families,

As I prepare to assume command of "America's MAG", I have been blessed with this opportunity to share a few words with you. Firstly, Amy and I would like to extend our congratulations to Baron and Debby on the occasion of Baron's retirement after 27 plus years of faithful and dedicated service to our Corps and country. For all of the faithful spouses out there, we know that Debby deserves as much credit for her support to her husband throughout his very successful career. We wish you all the best as you enter the next chapter of your lives.

This is also an exciting time for the Graham Family as we prepare to transition to a new community. After following the recent weather patterns in North Texas, I have considered trading in my pickup

truck for a boat! I am sure that things will return to normal just as suddenly as the wet weather descended upon you all.

We expect to hit the deck running as the calendar will continue to march on and the major fall events will be upon us before we know it. As the summer wears on, I hope to quickly continue to build upon what has been a great success



Col. Gary 'Gumby' Graham, MAG-41  
Commanding Officer as of 21 July, 2007.

under Col Lukas. While our country is still at war, we must continue to keep all of MAG-41 ready to assume any taskings that may come our way. The welfare of all of our families goes hand in hand with our combat readiness and will be one of my top priorities. As I have observed from the outside looking in, MAG-41 has performed in a superb manner and I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve with an organization which has made excellence its hallmark. I look forward to meeting with all of you and continuing a tradition of excellence.

Semper Fi,  
Col G.S. Graham  
"Gumby"



### Upcoming Events:

- \* September — KV Training, dates to follow next month. Contact Sgt Joseph to sign up, see pg. 2



## A note from LtCol Scharf MAG-41, XO

Dear MAG-41 Families,

It's my honor and pleasure to serve as MAG-41's new XO and Family Readiness Officer. I hope to live up to the standards set before me, as well as the high expectations for the future welfare of the unit and the families that comprise us. I stand ready, willing, and able to support. Lynne and I are extremely excited to be in the great state of Texas and working

with a fantastic group of individuals. I'm looking forward to our future and to meeting you all.

Semper Fidelis,  
LtCol Chris "Heehaw" Scharf

### MAG-41 Family Readiness Officer:

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**Military Handbooks** has announced a "last call" for requests for its FREE 2007 handbooks for military personnel. These handbooks, written specifically for service members and veterans, include a variety of information about pay, benefits, education and transitioning from the military. Anyone interested in receiving free copies of these handbooks can simply go to [www.militaryhandbooks.com](http://www.militaryhandbooks.com) and click on the request button. 2007 Military Handbooks available are : 2007 UNITED STATES MILITARY HANDBOOK, 2007 U.S. MILITARY RETIRED HANDBOOK, 2007 GETTING UNCLE SAM TO PAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE, 2007 AFTER THE MILITARY HANDBOOK, 2007 BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS HANDBOOK, 2007 VETERANS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS HANDBOOK, 2007 MILITARY CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP HANDBOOK.

## Chaplain's Corner

Hello MAG-41 families!

I am the new staff Chaplain for MAG-41 with primary responsibility to VMGR 234 and MALS 41. I work with Chaplain Randy Quinn the MAG-41 Group Chaplain.

I live and work in Graham, Texas. I serve as the Pastor of Administration at First United Methodist Church in Graham. I am often asked, "Where is Graham, Texas?" Well, it is located in the north Texas hill country about an hour and a half west of Fort Worth and south of Wichita Falls. It is a beautiful part of the great state of Texas.

I would love to have you come and visit us. My wife, Michele, and I promise to give you a big Texas welcome!

Our son, Matthew, is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Computer Information Systems. My wife, Michele, works for Right Management as a career consultant. She knows the challenges of having a deployed spouse, so, if you ever need a listening friend, she is ready to support you whenever you need it.

I have served the Navy and Marine Corps as a reserve Chaplain for eight years. Last year in 2006, I spent 12 months in Iraq as the Bat-

talion Chaplain for the 9<sup>th</sup> Communications Battalion stationed at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. It was a great experience supporting our Marines as we defended our great nation.

I look forward to being your staff Chaplain and supporting you in this difficult time of war in defending our nation.

If I can assist you in any way, please contact me. God bless you and God bless America! Ooh-Rah!

Chaplain Ron Newhouse, USN,  
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Fleet and Family Support Center, NASJRB Fort Worth (817) 782-5287



# VMFA-112

Greetings Cowboy Families –



The July drill weekend is upon us and our schedules are busier than ever. This weekend we will bid farewell to Col and Mrs. Lukas as they turn over the reins of MAG-41 to Col and Mrs. Graham. The Cowboys wish all the best for the Lukas' as they venture out into the civilian world and welcome aboard the Graham's as they discover North Texas and the world of the USMCR! Our training plans have changed somewhat and we are now planning on a history-making missile shoot out of the JRB in August. To our knowledge, this has not been accomplished before (at least anytime recently) and will involve jets taking off from Ft Worth with live air-to-air missiles to practice employment over the Gulf of Mexico. Valuable training will be gained by all. Following that, the squadron will head to Miramar, CA in late September to participate in Exercise Mojave Viper for

about 2 weeks. Training plans are sketchy after that but the squadron should be around Ft Worth for a few months.

Sadly, this month I must bid farewell to our Key Volunteer Coordinator, Karla Bethard. Karla has been invaluable to strengthening our Key Volunteer program over the last 2+ years and even remained on as our coordinator after her husband PCS'd to Miramar. She has provided Lee and I with an incredible amount of support and we cannot thank her enough. She has decided to step down at this time and turn over the coordinator responsibilities to Amanda DeLara. I appreciate Amanda for taking on the position of KVC, I know she will be great. A note from Karla is added below.

LtCol Steve Roepke  
Cowboy 1

To My VMFA 112 Cowboys and Families,

It has been an amazing experience being your KVC for the past year. But my time is over and Amanda DeLara is now your KVC and I know she will do a great job.

I was honored to have this opportunity to represent this Squadron. I would like to thank my KV's, Amanda De Lara, Christina Navarre, Darla Ballard, Ruth Rice and most of all, Major Garza and The Roepke's, because without them I would have been unable to do this.

Last but not least, to my husband GySgt Bethard for his support and understanding even if he gave me some hard times with this. What he doesn't know was he was my rock and helps me more than he knows. Thank you Honey!!!!!!!

Thanks again to everybody.

Good Luck!!!!  
Karla Bethard



## VMFA 112

### Family Readiness Officer:

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# VMGR-234

Greetings Ranger family!

Most of us are currently on our annual squadron AT out here in sunny (understatement of the year) El Centro, California. The good news is that a cold front came through last week, so the temperatures have been 10-15 degrees below normal. The bad news is ... it is still averaging 108 degrees in the shade.

Our first week was a complete success. We were able to accomplish over 100 hours of flying. The great thing about these 100 hours, unlike the other 4,000 hours that we will fly this year, is that they are completely devoted to our own training. This is why we have to take your loved ones away for two weeks in the summer ... I mean summer (grin). It is the only way that we

can support the rest of Marine Corps aviation, while maintaining our own readiness.

We have also had a lot of fun out here. We had an Officer vs. Enlisted softball game under the lights. Of course, the Enlisted team upset the Officers ... 14 to 10. In game two of the double header, we incorporated some Belgian Air Force O's and E's onto the teams (and some Belgian beer into the teams). This time the Officers took a commanding lead, and were victorious. (Our corpsman had to dispense an inordinate amount of Motrin on Saturday morning ...)

Sunday was the Special Olympics at the base swimming pool. In numerous acts of derring-do, we braved the elements and engaged in mortal combat. It was all tied up after the "poopy suit relay", "underwater swim", "brick rescue", "flight suit relay" and "centipede swim".

Unfortunately, on a highly controversial call by one of the judges, the E's eked out a victory in the final round of the belly flop competition.

Again, thanks for all of your support this year. These deployments require a lot of sacrifices ... from the Marines themselves, the families, and the employers. I assure you that the time has been well-spent. Thanks again for loaning us your Marine.

Ciao,  
Chow  
LtCol Clarke "Chow"  
Clodfelder  
CO, VMGR-234



## VMGR 234

### Family Readiness Officer:

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### MACS-24 Det A

#### Family Readiness Officer:

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### MWSS-473

#### Family Readiness Officer:

Capt Gibbons

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FRO Chief GySgt Ronnie Pool

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## MALS-41



To the Family and friends  
of MALS-41,

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and safe. July is proving to be as busy as we had anticipated. The Marines in Ft Worth are one week into their Annual Training (AT) and those in Miramar are now kicking theirs off. The objective at both sites is to provide MOS proficiency training, annual Marine Corps specific training, and a chance to have some fun doing the things Marines do. Our intent is to do this in a way that is both personally and professionally rewarding to each Marine.

Both sites have prepared an aggressive training plan to maximize the time together. For the Marines in Ft Worth, we have met one objective to stand up and operate out of additional Mobile Maintenance Facilities (MMF) near the flight line. Captain Desimone and his Marines have overcome many challenges in readying these vans and their success was no accident. The vans remain an integral part of the MALS mission and will become our work spaces when forward deployed. As with any equipment, it must be exercised and maintained to work properly.

In addition, we have Ft Worth Marines operating with VMGR-234 in El Centro, CA. Working closely with the "Rangers," MALS has the opportunity to support operations on the KC-130 flight line. The feedback we are receiving of the training and support along

side 234 is outstanding. The professional development and friendships being forged in the desert sun are a testament to the "can-do" spirit of the MAG-41 Marines. I look forward to visiting all of you and plan to attend the Mess Night in week two.

Ft Worth Marines are also participating in a mass casualty drill, the rifle range, MCMAP, a joint Civil-Military training exercise (College Station, TX), the gas chamber/NBC training, early morning PT, and the MAG-41 Change of Command (CoC). For those Marines who participated in the CoC for the Commanding General of 4<sup>th</sup> MAW in New Orleans and those who participated in the retirement for MSgt Cross, GREAT JOB! Your performance at each event was "text book" impeccable and certainly reflected a professional military bearing that is second to none!

At the completion of the Ft Worth AT, Captain Sajewski, Sgt Major Cummings and I will be traveling to Alameda, CA to join up with the Miramar Marines. With an equally aggressive calendar, Major Schaefer and his team will also be knee deep in a joint Civil-Military training exercise. We look forward to meeting and getting to work with as many of the Miramar Marines as possible.

With the completion of AT, it will be back to the drawing board as we continue to populate our 18 month calendar. August will bring the MALS-41 Post and Relief as SgtMaj Motz relinquishes his duties to SgtMaj Cummings. I also expect MAG-41 to launch a handfull of Marines to Marine Barracks 8<sup>th</sup>

and I for the evening parade. From there, things will get busy as the holiday cycle starts all over again. The Marine Mud Run and the Birthday Ball are right around the corner. Next thing you know, it will be Thanksgiving and we will be trying to figure out how many days of shopping are left before Christmas!

Finally, this is certainly the month for "Hail and Farewells." On behalf of all of MALS-41, I would like to extend a warm thank you to BGen and Mrs Papak, Col and Mrs Lukas, and MSgt and Mrs Cross for their exceptional leadership over the years. I also want to extend a hearty Texas "welcome aboard" to BGen and Mrs Bircher and Col and Mrs Graham. We all look forward to working with each of you.

That is it for now, please continue to take care of one another. Remember the safety challenges of summer and never stop doing the right things for the right reasons!

Semper,

**Ray Descheneaux**

Commanding Officer

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 41

#### MALS-41 Family Readiness Officer:

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Assistant Family Readiness Officer

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



HISTORY DIVISION

*Marines of the 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Marine Brigade depart San Diego for Korea in July 1950. (Official Marine Corps Photo: A1792)*



# Fair winds and following seas\* to the Lukas Family



## 3 New Military Scholarships

The non-profit Hire A Hero program is accepting applications to award 122 academic scholarships to active and transitioning military personnel, veterans, National Guard Members, Reservists and their spouses. The three scholarships being offered are worth up to \$10,000 and include a 100% scholarship for an Associate of Applied Science degree. The degree and diploma programs will be available in automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business, information technology, and hospitality services. The application process involves registering on the Hire A Hero website for free at [www.hireahero.com](http://www.hireahero.com) and uploading a written essay or short video. All applications are due on or before August 17th and winners will be announced in late August.

Find out more at: <http://www.hireahero.com/scholarships>



## MCCS ONESOURCE

Marine Corps Community Center's One Source is available to help with everything from finding a plumber to helping with scholarship information. 1-800-869-0278

[www.mccsonesource.com](http://www.mccsonesource.com)



**User ID: marines**  
**Password: semper fi**

## Marine Spouses Club

More info to follow soon via email.

If you are interested in our email list send your name/email to [missybaker@charter.net](mailto:missybaker@charter.net)



If your address has changed or you would no longer like to receive this newsletter, please contact Sgt Joseph at [yul.p.joseph@usmc.mil](mailto:yul.p.joseph@usmc.mil)



Please visit the MAG-41 Website for more information about ...

\*Photos \*Stories \*MAG History \*Newsletter Archives \*Contact Information \*Welcome Aboard Package  
\*Relocation Information \*Key Volunteer Network \*Family Readiness \*Comments

# [www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmaw/mag41](http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmaw/mag41)